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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/051,940	01/16/2002	Darin P. Smedberg	M-12143 US	1747

7590                    03/07/2003

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HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

[REDACTED] ART UNIT      [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/051,940	Applicant(s) Smedberg
Examiner Briggitte R. Hammond	Art Unit 2833



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

2a)  This action is FINAL.      2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on Jan 16, 2002 is/are a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2

6)  Other:

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 1, line 9, the acronym “SMB” should initially be completely spelled out.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Maloof. Applicant's admitted prior art pages 1-2 of the instant application. Applicant's admitted prior art discloses it is well known to have a circuit board having a plurality of straight SMB jacks in rows and columns for mating to SMB plugs ( see page 1, lines 6-18 ). Applicant's admitted prior art does not disclose the SMB plugs comprising a main body being angled/chamfered. However, Maloof disclose a plug 10 comprising a wire 40, a main body 28 that is rotatable and angled/chamfered. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify Applicant's admitted prior art by making the main body of the plug angled/chamfered as taught by Maloof to further assist in reducing space usage.

Regarding claim 3, the chamfered end of Maloof is parallel within  $\pm 5^\circ$  to the second axis.

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Regarding claims 8,9 and 14, applicant's admitted prior art disclose the wire exiting at 45° (see page 2, line 4 ).

Regarding claim 12, applicant's admitted prior art disclose multiple jacks and plugs, it would have been obvious to have three or four or as many as needed.

Regarding claim 6, applicant's admitted prior art disclose the main body having a snap-on coupling (page 1, line 10).

Regarding claims 4 and 5, applicant's admitted prior art discloses the main body of the plug having a first diameter but applicant's admitted prior art is silent about the diameter being approximately 89% of a pitch between adjacent connectors. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the plug of applicant's admitted prior art, since it has been held that the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.

### *Conclusion*

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Purdy 6,106,333, Ryan 6,516,053, Albrecht 4,106,831 and Springer 4,003,616 were cited as similar angled connecters.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is (703) 305-0032. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Briggitte R. Hammond

March 4, 2003

*P. Bradley*  
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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